



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,575	07/23/2003	Siegfried Mayer	02P10503	6622
24252	7590	12/17/2004		EXAMINER A, MINH D
OSRAM SYLVANIA INC 100 ENDICOTT STREET DANVERS, MA 01923			ART UNIT 2821	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/624,575	MAYER ET AL. <i>PA</i>	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Minh D A	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/23/03.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***DETAILED ACTION***

***Specification***

1. The disclosure is objected to under 37 CFR 1.71, as being so incomprehensible as to preclude a reasonable search of the prior art by the examiner. For example, the following items are not understood: "a phase setting device for matching the operating frequency of the inverter" are not show on the figure or what kind of elements or resistor or capacitor or control..etc can be the phase setting device?.

Applicant is required to submit an amendment which clarifies the disclosure so that the examiner may make a proper comparison of the invention with the prior art.

Applicant should be careful not to introduce any new matter into the disclosure (i.e., matter which is not supported by the disclosure as originally filed).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this letter.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, 5-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) with the best understood as being unpatentable by Rudolph et al (US 5,589,740).

Regarding claims 1, 5-7 and 9, Rudolph discloses a circuit apparatus for operating a lamp in particular a low-pressure discharge lamp (LP1 and LP2), having an

Art Unit: 2821

inverter device (Q1 and Q2) for supplying the lamp with alternating current (Control circuit A), which has at least one transistor switching unit , and a current limiting device, which is connected to the at least one transistor switching unit for limiting the current through the at least one transistor switching unit, wherein the control electrode of the at least one transistor switching unit can be driven by the current limiting device for the purpose of current limitation. See figures 1-3, col.3, lines 36-67 to col.8, lines 1-38.

Regarding claim 2, Rudolph discloses the inverter device comprises a half-bridge including the at least one transistor unit and a further transistor unit. See figures 1-3.

Regarding claim 8, Rudolph discloses current limiting device comprises a switching device by means of which the at least one transistor switching unit can be switched on and off as a function of the current through the at least one transistor switching unit. See figures 1-3, col.3, lines 36-67 to col.8, lines 1-38

Regarding claim 10, Rudolph discloses that, the lamp is operated in a load circuit. See figures 1-3.

Regarding claim 11, Rudolph discloses an energy circuit for a high frequency AC voltage between the terminals V1 and V2 (corresponding to the frequency of the generated alternating current is matched to a resonant frequency of the load circuit. ). See figures 1-3, col.3, lines 36-67 to col.8, lines 1-38.

Regarding claims 12-14, Rudolph discloses in which the at least one transistor switching unit is switched off at a prescribed threshold value as a function of the current flowing through it. See col.4, lines 26-61 and col.8, line 1-39.

Art Unit: 2821

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Rudolph et al (US 5,589,740) in view of Reiser (US 6,057,611).

Regarding claim 3, Rudolph discloses the claimed invention except at least one transistor unit comprises a MOSFET transistor. However, Reiser discloses at least one transistor unit comprises a MOSFET transistor. See col.3, lines 28-35.

It would have been an obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a transistor unit comprise a mosfet such as that suggested by Reiser in the circuit of Rudolph to appropriate load ability in terms of voltage and current.

Regarding claim 4, Rudolph discloses, in which the lamp can be operated in a load circuit that is connected to the inverter device. See figure.

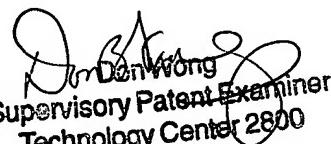
### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Sabate (US 6,424,101) and Konopka et al . (US 6,194,845) are cited to show a lighting control system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Minh A whose telephone number is (571) 272-1817. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30 –2:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong, can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1553.

  
Don Wong  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800

Examiner

Minh A

Art unit 2821

12/11/04